STAUROCHILUS LEYTENSIS, A PHILIPPINE SEGREGATE OF *STAUROCHILUS FASCIATUS* (ORCHIDACEAE: AERIDINAE)

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ABSTRACT

The new combination **Staurochilus leytensis** (Ames) E.A. Christenson (Orchidaceae) is made.

RESUMEN

Se hace la nueva combinación **Staurochilus leytensis** (Ames) E.A. Christenson (Orchidaceae).

Oakes Ames and his associates at Harvard University accepted extremely broadly defined species during the first half of the 20th century and in the process reduced many taxa to synonymy. *Vandopsis leytensis* Ames was treated as a synonym of *Staurochilus fasciatus* by Ames and Quisumbing (1932). This species is here recognized as distinct and a new combination is published in *Staurochilus*.

Staurochilus fasciatus (Rchb.f.) Ridl., J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 32:350. 1896. *Trichoglottis fasciata* Rchb.f., Flora 55(9):137. 1872. *Stauropsis fasciata* (Rchb.f.) Benth., Index Kewensis 982. 1885. TYPE: "Hinterindien," collector unknown (HOLOTYPE: W).

Distribution.—Thailand, Laos, Kampuchea, Vietnam, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo (following Seidenfaden 1988).

Staurochilus leytensis (Ames) E.A. Christenson, comb. nov. BASIONYM: *Vandopsis leytensis* Ames, Orchid. 5:222. 1915. TYPE: THE PHILIPPINES: Leyte, Dagami, 60 m, 14 Dec 1912, *C.A. Wenzel 14* (LECTOTYPE: AMES; ISOLECTOTYPE: NY[1], designated by Seidenfaden 1988).

Ames and Quisumbing (1932) illustrated *S.* leytensis (as *Stauropsis fasciata* (Rchb.f.) Benth.) with photographs, black and white drawings, and colored drawings without noting its distinctive features.

Distribution.—*Staurochilus leytensis* has been collected on Agusan, Leyte, Quezon, Rizal and Sorsogon at elevations of 60–800 m (Valmayor 1984, as *Trichoglottis fasciata* Rchb.f.). While these records need to be reexamined, there is no reason to believe that any of them represent a far disjunct population of true *Staurochilus fasciatus* which is native to Southeast Asia, adjacent Indonesia, and reportedly Borneo.

While *S. fasciatus* and *S. leytensis* are clearly sister species, they are amply

[1] An image of the isolectotype is available online at nybg.org

distinct and geographically quite isolated from each other. In *S. fasciatus* the leaves are V-shaped in cross section and ligulate, the lateral sepals are falcate-incurved ("bowlegged"), the petals are flat, the large lateral lip lobes lie in the same plane as the midlobe, and the sepals and petals are densely marked. In contrast, *S. leytensis* has leaves that are flat and proportionately broader, divergent lateral sepals, incurved petals, shallowly suberect-incurved lateral lip lobes, and different floral markings. The species can be distinguished in following key:

Leaves ligulate, V-shaped in cross-section, up to 12 × 2.5 cm; lateral sepals incurved-falcate such that the three sepals form a tall isosceles triangle; petals flat and held rigidly at 180°, large lateral lip lobes lie in one plane together with the midlobe _____ **Staurochilus fasciatus**

Leaves oblong-elliptic, flat with only a depressed midvein, up to 10 × 3 cm; lateral sepals strongly divergent such that the three sepals form an equilateral triangle; petals incurved yielding a shallowly cupped flower, petals of *S. leytensis* appear to be more narrowly clawed than those of *S. fasciatus* but more specimens are needed to quantify this difference, lateral lip lobes shallowly erect-incurved and do not lie in the same plane as the midlobe _____ **Staurochilus leytensis**

While both *S. fasciatus* and *S. leytensis* have pale yellow sepals and petals with transverse brown bars, the markings are different. In *S. fasciatus* the bars are thick and often coalesce toward the segment apices forming nearly solid brown patches. The bars of *S. leytensis* are narrower, cover significantly less of the surface, and do not appear to coalesce into solid patches.

On an historical note, when Ridley (1896) first described *Staurochilus* with *S. fasciatus* as the sole species he stated that "It is commonly stated in horticultural books that this is a native of the Philippines. I have not seen any thence." It appears that he was on the right track after all and that the species does not occur in the Philippines.

REFERENCES

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